

File
COBAT

MEMORANDUM FOR: The OCB Board Assistants

FROM: The Committee for Broadcasting and Television (COBAT) and
The Technical Panel for International Broadcasting (TPIB)

Subject: International Broadcasting Facilities

Background

1. The record indicates that the President at a meeting of the NSC held on February 3, 1955, agreed that existing warehoused high-power broadcast transmitters should be utilized in international broadcasting. The NSC, responsive to the desire of the President, by action 1386b on April 28, 1955 concurred in principle with the activation of additional high-powered transmitters. The plan before the NSC on that date called for the installation of two-500 KW shortwave transmitters at Tangier, one 1000 KW mediumwave and two-500 KW shortwave transmitters in the Greek area, and two-500 KW shortwave transmitters in the Philippines. These plans had been drawn up as the result of highly professional engineering studies, all of which recommended the use of "higher-power transmitters and higher-gain antennas".

2. At the Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Geneva last October, the Soviets rejected any arrangement which would lead to the freer interchange of ideas and strongly defended their right to jam. It appears therefore that there will be no let-up in the "war of ideas".

2. The OCB Progress Report to the NSC on #169 dated February 1, 1956, informs that the only action taken to date in response to the NSC's action is the planning for installation of two-500 KW shortwave transmitters at Tangier. Thus one full year has gone by without any real implementation of the NSC action -- a considerable time in view of the fact that the installation of such facilities takes from 2 to 2½ years.

Present Situation

3. The international situation, ~~particularly in the Middle East~~, is continually worsening. ^{1st sentence para 2. The steadily increasing jamming} The Operations Coordinator of the State Department has called the attention of the OCB to the fact that the continuance of Soviet ~~capabilities of the Soviet have not been matched by~~ and Egyptian ~~improvement in U.S. Broadcasting capabilities. The~~ radio activities in the Middle East and Balkan areas suggests the need for ~~the U.S. Broadcasting potential is in a state of retrogression~~ full employment of U.S. facilities in accordance with previous NSC decisions.

5. ~~At the request of the Executive Officer~~, TPIB and COBAT have studied the coverage of present U.S. broadcasting facilities directed toward the Middle East, the Balkans, Southwestern and Central Russia, Asia and the Far East. It is the opinion of these working groups that present facilities are insufficient ~~to counter political trends inimical to U.S. policy and security interests~~ ^{in power to counter present Soviet efforts, particularly in the Middle East,} and that the plan approved over a year ago should be implemented. The U.S. is in danger of losing the radio cold war because it is not fully utilizing available resources. The deteriorating climate of world opinion regarding the U.S. ~~would seem to dictate~~ ^{now} that positive steps be taken.

Recommendation

6. TPIB and COBAT therefore recommend ^{The Board direct} full and speedy implementation of NSC Action 1386b ^{as a matter of urgency with budgetary provision therefore} ~~Budgetary problems should be met and the necessary money~~ ^{specific to be taken} provided. ~~Urgent action should be directed toward:~~

- ~~Expedite~~
- A. Speed-up of the Tangier project.
 - B. Installation for the Greek area. The original plans should be implemented in the Greek area on land where base rights have already been negotiated. Present plans are for the installation of only one 500 KW medium-wave transmitter to be operated at one-half power (250 KW) rather than the installation of one 1000 ^{KW}/mediumwave and two-500 KW shortwave transmitters.
 - C. Installation in the Philippines. Activation of two-500 shortwave transmitters as originally submitted to the NSC is recommended, and not merely the installation of two-100 KW shortwave transmitters as recently proposed.